

2024
**NATIONAL ABORIGINAL
AND TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER ACADEMY
NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Graduation





**NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES
STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH ACADEMY**
**GRADUATION AND AWARDS
CELEBRATION 2024**



Chairperson Welcome

Congratulations to the graduating students of the 2024 IAHA National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Academy.

We extend our appreciation to all graduate trainees for your courage, commitment, and dedication throughout your journey in completing the Academy Program, and it has been amazing to see your growth, development, and engagement in achieving your goals and aspirations.

As each of you embark on the next chapter of your own journey, we encourage you to continue to approach it with the same enthusiasm and confidence that you have shown within the Academy, and we look forward to staying connected and supporting you in whatever is next.

To our continuing trainees, we look forward to working with you into next year and celebrating your continued dedication to learning, your success and achievements at our 2024 graduation ceremonies.

We wish to express our gratitude to the families and carers who have consistently supported trainees throughout their education, training, and Academy years. Your unwavering support and encouragement have been critical to the success and achievements of all our young people here today.

We thank our training partners, host employers and our IAHA Group Training team for their important roles in supporting the culturally safe and responsive delivery of classroom and workplace learning, facilitating access to opportunities to explore trainees' interest in a diverse range of health pathways.

For IAHA, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Academy represents a truly Indigenous led and invaluable program providing our high school students the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills in allied health and Aboriginal health and wellbeing.

This is a program we're deeply committed to and honoured to be able to deliver in and with our communities.

2024 marks a milestone for the program nationally, with the largest graduating cohort yet, and with trainees completing across each of the five locations.

The IAHA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Academy is one initiative that IAHA is leading to grow the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce into the future and ensure that all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, families, and communities have access to culturally responsive healthcare.

We sincerely thank you all for your contributions to the success of the program, and for your commitment to improving education, training, and employment outcomes for our young people in partnership with our communities.

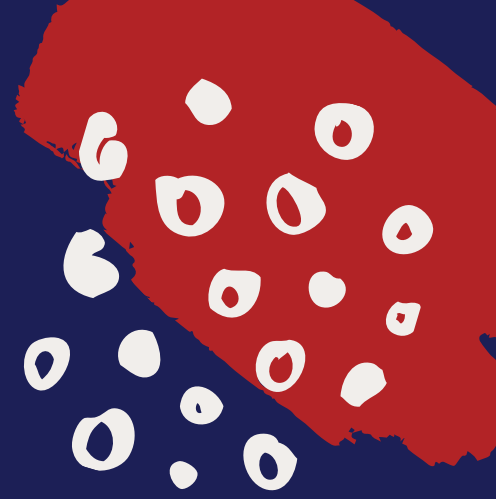
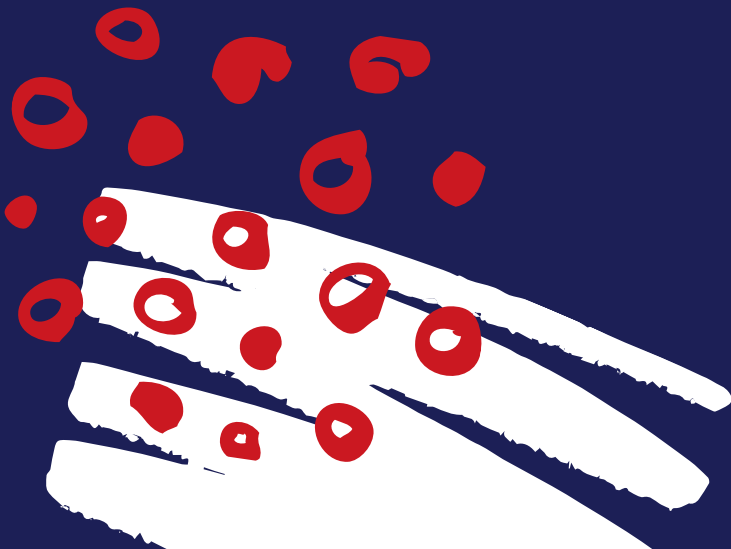
Staying strong and connected together!

Nicole Turner

Chairperson
Indigenous Allied Health Australia

Program

- Welcome to Country
- Chairperson / CEO Welcome
- Introduction to the Class of 2024 (Yr 11 & 12 students)
- Opening Address and Overview
 - National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Academy
 - NT Aboriginal Health Academy
- NT Aboriginal Health Academy Awards
- Presentation of the Class of 2024 Year 12 Graduates
- Closing Messages



Northern Territory Aboriginal Health Academy Overview

The Northern Territory Aboriginal Health Academy (NTAHA) was the first Academy established under IAHA's National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Academy (NATSIHA) program.

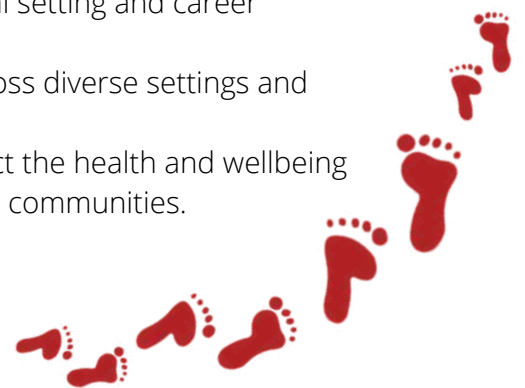
The NTAHA is a sustainable program that delivers culturally informed training designed to maintain engagement in education. It creates opportunities for local NT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students to complete their year 12 education and to consider and pursue employment and/or further education and training opportunities across a range of sectors.

The NTAHA has developed a genuine pathway for students to attain relevant industry qualifications through a school-based traineeship model. It supports future employment in high and growing demand across diverse sectors, including education, early childhood, mental health, social and emotional wellbeing, health, disability, community services, justice and aged care, as clinicians, administrators, project officers, trainers and support workers.

In addition to impacting the lives of individuals and families, the NTAHA is an education and training pathway for building a future Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander skilled and qualified workforce, addressing issues around service accessibility and quality of care while also supporting individuals in the social and cultural determinants of health.

The core components of the NTAHA are to:

- Enable local NT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students to stay engaged in their education from years 7-10 and to have access to additional support and development in years 11 and 12 to complete their secondary education successfully.
- Work in and directly with students, families, schools, careers advisers, employers, and other community stakeholders to engage students on a pathway toward long-term employment and careers.
- Support students in gaining a nationally recognised vocational qualification, learning employable, job-ready skills in a range of settings, and providing the foundational skills to progress into further education and/or training.
- Enable students to complete a culturally safe school-based traineeship over their final two years of high school study as paid employees of Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) through IAHA's Group Training Organisation, IAHA Group Training.
- Provide mentoring for students through relationships with relatable Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander role models who themselves have completed education, training and career pathways to successfully gain employment across diverse sectors.
- Engage students in Indigenous leadership development, goal setting and career planning activities to support lifelong learning and skills.
- Expose students to different employment opportunities across diverse settings and sectors.
- Expose students to professions and roles that directly impact the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, families and communities.



Students, Schools and Host Employers

Student	Grade	School	Host Employers
Aaliyah Mukhlis	11	O'Loughlin Catholic College	Oral Health Services
Aneisha Bowie	12	Darwin High School	Asthma Foundation
Bailey Moorhead	11	Casuarina Senior College	Menzies School of Health Research
Brian Ramsamy	11	Casuarina Senior College	Vitality Health and rehab
Caitlyn Mawson	12	Haileybury Rendall School	NT Health - Volunteer Hub & Cameron Wellness Centre
Chad Bill	12	Marrara Christian College	Palmerston Regional Council
Charlie Newman	12	Taminmin College	TeamHealth
Ciara Ransome	11	O'Loughlin Catholic College	Royal Darwin Hospital - Allied Health Team
Darius Pastrikos		Part time	Indigenous Allied Health Australia
Devina Parry	11	Casuarina Senior College	Carpentaria Disability Services
Harley Rasmussen	12	Marrara Christian College	Menzies School of Health Research
Jacintha Jensen	11	O'Loughlin Catholic College	Southern Cross Care
Jacob Dempsey	12	O'Loughlin Catholic College	Southern Cross Care
Jade Jackson	11	Taminmin College	TeamHealth
Jaia'Maree Ouwendijk-Reid	12	O'Loughlin Catholic College	Danila Dilba
Jalyn Priestley	11	Casuarina Senior College	Menzies School of Health Research
Jayde-Maree Rosas	12	O'Loughlin Catholic College	Life Without Barriers
Jonah Austin	11	Casuarina Senior College	Oral Health Services
Kaylani Cole	12	O'Loughlin Catholic College	Movement for Life Physiotherapy
Keira Vincent	11	St John's Catholic College	Menzies School of Health Research
Kiaasha Hall	11	St John's Catholic College	Anglicare NT - Headspace
Lalisha Bush-Gordon	12	Casuarina Senior College	NT Health - Children's Development Team
La Shani McDonald	11	Haileybury Rendall School	Indigenous Allied Health Australia
Marley Austin	12	Casuarina Senior College	Royal Darwin Hospital - Allied Health Team
Melody Sedan	11	Casuarina Senior College	Brien Holden Foundation
Mullaya Welsh	11	Darwin High School	Outreach Physiotherapy
Myah Kelly	12	Casuarina Senior College	Life Without Barriers
Rahiri Bedggood	12	Haileybury Rendall School	NT Health - Volunteer Hub & Cameron Wellness Centre
Rhikali Nibbs	12	Casuarina Senior College	NT Health - Volunteer Hub
Rianna Ryan	11	Haileybury Rendall School	Indigenous Allied Health Australia
Ruby Holmes	12	Taminmin College	Early Start Australia NT
Ruby Mummery	11	Casuarina Senior College	Relationships Australia NT
Samale Councillor	12	Taminmin College	Ludmilla Primary school
Saphirah Gilboy	12	MacKillop Catholic College	Riding for the Disabled
Sarah Wees	12	Marrara Christian College	Menzies School of Health Research
Sasha Kelantumama	11	St John's Catholic College	Anglicare NT - Headspace
Shakeam Hector	12	Haileybury Rendall School	Anglicare NT - Headspace
Tamika Tonson	12	Casuarina Senior College	NT Health - Ophthalmology
Tanayah McDonald	12	Haileybury Rendall School	Menzies School of Health Research
Tully Cronin	12	Darwin High School	Early Start Australia NT



2024 Graduating Students



Aneisha Bowie

Chad Bill

Harley Rasmussen

Jacob Dempsey

Jaia'Maree Ouwendijk-Reid

Jayde-Maree Rosas

Kaylani Cole

Lalisha Bush-Gordon

Marley Austin

Myah Kelly

Rhikali Nibbs

Samale Councillor

Saphirah Gilboy

Sarah Wees

Shakeam Hector

Tamika Tonson

Tanayah McDonald

Charlie Newman

Caitlyn Mawson

Rahiri Bedggood

Ruby Holmes

Tully Cronin

Ciara Ransome

Northern Territory Aboriginal Health Academy Awards

NT Aboriginal Health Academy Inspiration Award

The Inspiration Award recipient demonstrated the ability to inspire others through their positive approach to their personal and professional journey in the Academy – overcoming challenges and taking a strengths-based approach towards success. The award recognises the recipient's dedication to their studies, the IAHA National Academy program, and their ambitions for their future.

NT Aboriginal Health Academy Commitment Award

The Commitment Award recipient demonstrated a commitment and contribution to success of the program their peers, and who has demonstrated leadership, strength, and reliance. The Commitment Award recognises the everyday achievements and contributions which have a positive and strong impact on themselves, fellow class members, their workplaces, and the broader Academy family.

NT Aboriginal Health Academy Future Health Leader

The Future Health Leader Award recipient demonstrated strong leadership capabilities, commitment to their studies, and qualities as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander role model and leader to fellow students, their families, and the broader community.

NT Aboriginal Health Academy Local Champion Award

The Local Champion Award recipient demonstrated commitment to all levels of the Academy, is active in class, at school and within their community. This award recognises a student who is an role model and support for other students and our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community

NT Aboriginal Health Academy Deadly Student Award

The Deadly Student Award recipient demonstrated Deadly qualities such as respect, a passion and interest in their own learning. This award recognises a student who contributes to class and is always willing to give it a go.

NT Aboriginal Health Academy Trainee of the Year Award

The Trainee of the Year Award recipient demonstrates personal development and commitment aligned to IAHA's five impact statements: strength, connection, leadership, transformation, and growth. This award recognises a student who demonstrates cultural responsiveness, dedication, strength, and resilience.

NT Aboriginal Health Academy Student Choice Award

Selected by their peers, the Student Choice Award recipient demonstrated growth, inspired others, displayed leadership, and worked with peers in a friendly and respectful way.



STUDENT PROFILES

Student profile background - Artwork by Kootji Raymond, Larrakia traditional owner

Academy students found the artwork whilst exploring the campus during Academy days. They choose these artworks stating that the images and colours had resonated with them.

The artwork is displayed at the First Nations Leadership precinct, Charles Darwin University.

Tamika Tonson

My name is Tamika Tonson and I'm a proud Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander woman; born and raised here in the top end. I enjoy sports such as Rugby League and AFL, so much that I decided to take up coaching for the Under 13's division in Rugby League 2024.



I first discovered IAHA Group training towards the end of my year 10 completion, I was completely failing throughout that whole year until my Stars foundation mentor approached me and said applying for this program may not just help through school, but also through the long run. I was blessed to have been accepted by the academy. Not only was I accepted into the program, but, I was accepted with open arms and staff who constantly reminded me that I can achieve anything I can set my mind to... Funny thing was, I didn't even know these people.

2 years later, those same people are the ones I wouldn't be able to imagine my life without. IAHA has encouraged and supported me through school, personal, and professional situations. Without the given opportunities and help provided, I would have never been able to say that I've completed year 12 early, landed a full time government job at the age of 17, created new connections, and if it wasn't for Annmarie's support... I wouldn't have been able to say that I participated in the 2024 NT Rugby League side. The IAHA family have been nothing but good to me and I couldn't be more grateful.



Aaliyah Mukhlis



My name is Aaliyah Mukhlis; I am 16 years old and a year 11 student at O'Loughlin Catholic College. I am a proud Indigenous woman with my grandfather's country from Nyawaygi (Palm Island), Djirbalngan (Innisfail) and my grandmother's country from Gayiri/Bidjara (Spring Sure) and Bindal (Townsville). Fun fact about me is that I play four sports, and I am the eldest of three siblings.



I decided to join IAHA Academy because many students from my school said it was a great environment, and I thought it was a great opportunity for me to explore my options of what I want to do in the future. My experience in the academy so far has been amazing; everyone here is so welcoming and is always there to listen and support you with your every need. This place has taught me a lot of work experience by doing hands-on work and theory to be ready for the workforce. The best thing about the academy is the knowledge that you gain and the friendships and relationships you grow during your time here. It's a very fun and hard-working environment, and the people here really push you to be the best version of yourself. What motivates me the most about pursuing my career in health is just the feeling of being able to help others in the health department, as my goal for the future is to become a physiotherapist or perdition.

The advice I would give to someone who wants to join the academy in the future is to do it because it has taught me so much knowledge, and I've gained a lot of confidence during my time here with everything that we do. It's a very fun but professional environment to be around that provides you with lots of opportunities to see what you want to become in the future. You not only grow as a person but also build new trusting relationships along the way.





Aneisha Bowie



My name is Aneisha Bowie; I am 17 years old and in year 12 at Darwin High School. I am a Torres Strait Islander from Far North Queensland. Through my dad's side, I am from Badu Island, his totem is the koedal (Crocodile). I am also a descendant of the surrounding islands, including Saibai, Yam, St Pauls, Mabuig and Moa Island. On my mum's side, her connections are Moa Island; her totem is a dog and turn the bird. Fun fact about me is I have four older brothers, meaning I am the baby of the family. I lived in Cairns for most of my life until my mum got a job in Weipa, Cape York, where we spent the next three years there before moving to Darwin, Northern Territory.

I decided to join this academy as an opportunity to pathways in the health industry as well as gain experience out in the workplace, setting me up for the future. I knew that I wanted to be in the health industry so I could help my mob and make them feel culturally safe.

My current experience with IAHA has been so good. I love the way our assignments and tasks are set at an achievable level. I have made a lot of new friends and gained confidence throughout the two years of being at this academy. I get excited for all the guest speakers that come into the academy as they really help me to think about what pathways I want to pursue. My favourite guest speaker so far has been Sophie from Oral Health NT. She inspired me to experience as much work exposure as I can because it will open doors up to many pathways. I love all the staff at IAHA. They are very supportive and encourage many of us to do our best. They are always there for us, no matter how small or big the problem is.

During this academy I had the opportunity to go to JCU Indigenous winter school. Where I got to participate in many activities and learn about Occupation Therapy. Which influenced me to become an OT.

My favourite part about the academy is the positive vibes from both staff and students. They make me look forward to every academy day. I also like when we do mental health activities, like crafting, face masks, movie days, and journaling.

My first workplace was at Urban Health Primary Care at Casuarina Plaza. I worked alongside a Dietitian. While I was working with the Dietitian, I would sit in with clients as well as go to events to promote healthy eating. The thing I enjoyed the most was working with the children and teaching them about different vegetables and fruits.

My second work placement was at the Asthma Foundation, where I attended client appointments, increasing my confidence in interacting with and speaking with clients.

I was involved with health promotion for asthma awareness and asthma management. I also received valuable administration experience in file management and stocktaking.

One of my closest cousins was diagnosed with leukemia (blood cancer). This was my motivation to pursue a career in health. It showed me the importance of having more representation of our mob working in health care.

My goal is to become an occupational therapist, as I love helping other people accomplish their goals. I would also like to pursue other study options to increase my knowledge and skills in Allied Health.

I would tell them that Coming to this Academy was the best decision I have ever made. It really opened the door for many work experiences, and the support shown by the staff is empowering for many. Even after you leave, they will also be there as a backbone.



Bailey Moorhead

My name is Bailey Moorhead. I'm 16, and I go to Casuarina Senior College, where I'm in year 11. My mum is Aboriginal, so we have a lot of family here in Darwin, but it gets hard to keep track of them all. My close family is my mum's sisters, brother, and parents. They are all scattered around Darwin, but even though they are far, we still manage to get together occasionally and have a big yarn about what's been going on.



An interesting fact about me is that I got this gene from my dad. It has something to do with my sweat, but what it does is it makes insects and bugs that drink blood or bite more attracted to me, so whenever I go out bush with family, I always get destroyed by bugs.

I joined the academy because I wanted to become a paramedic. It is a respectable and well-paying job, and I doubt it will ever get boring. There weren't many options to help me achieve this at the time, so when I found out about IAHA, I jumped at the chance.

My current experience with IAHA has been pretty nice; with school work, my job, and all that, this has been a nice environment. It's hard to decide what the best thing about IAHA is because there's so much that I appreciate, like the pay or the lunches or the people here, but if I had to choose, I would say the morning tea because I don't really eat breakfast, so it's nice. I will be starting my workplace at Menzies soon. What motivates me most is wanting my parents to know that I will be fine. I just want to remove as much burden or worries they might have of me so they can focus on my sister and brother, and having a career in health would put them at ease.

One of my dreams is to save up a bunch of money and go travelling around the world by myself getting to see sights and meet people, and experience culture.

The advice I would give to someone wanting to join is to don't join just for the pay or the credits because if you don't want a career in health, you would be wasting your time that could be put towards your real goals. So think about what you want to do with your life, and if it involves health, this is the place for you.



Brian Ramsamy

My name is Brian Ramsamy. I am seventeen and in year 11 at Casuarina Senior College. My family is from North Queensland, and my mob is Western and Eastern Kuku Yalinji, Kukartj, Kokobera, Kunjen. My Torres Strait side is from Malu Kiwai, part of the Top Western group.

My future goals are to become professional in what I do whether that be in the health industry or Sports. Things I like about the health industry is that I'm always working alongside other people and clients.

I found out about the academy through Clontarf. We came to the IAHA centre during a Clontarf class, and we were introduced to what IAHA would be like. I was very impressed and wanted to join the academy. Since joining the academy, I have noticed that school has become a lot easier to complete.



Caitlyn Mawson

Hey, my name is Caitlyn Mawson. I'm in year 12 and attending a private school in Darwin called Haileybury Rendall School.

I was born in Katherine and raised in my hometown community, Borroloola, where my mum and family come from. I belong to two clans, Gudanji and Garrwa. I speak Garrwa language sometimes with my nana, who teaches me the languages and cultural background on country of knowing the land and environment.

My Hobbies are fishing, Hunting, Camping, doing art and painting, and drawing. Mostly like to spend time with family out on country and adapting to my culture. I started going to school in my community from primary school to high school. When I was in year 9, I started going to school in Darwin 2019. It was kind of scary, but I had some family from Borroloola who also had come up to school at Haileybury. I was nervous about making friends, but I had confidence in making friends and introducing myself. I managed to make friends and did a lot of good work, and earned awards when achieving my best in class.

My goal after finishing school is to work at the Northern Land Council or to Become a Centrelink worker in my community.





Chad Bill

My name is Chad Bill. I'm 18 and I go to Marrara Christian College as a boarding student in year 12 and I'm from Elliott/ Kulumindini. My mob are the Jingili and Mudburra people. Fun fact about me: I like listening to music, going out hunting, sleeping in, going for long walks, looking at the sunset and playing games.



I joined the IAHA academy to improve my skills and get me prepared to work at my home and help everyone. My experience is IAHA is I get to go to my work placement every Tuesday and be a leader to the 2024 crew. I learned so much stuff, I improved my talking skills, and willing to take on any challenges.

I enjoy being with my friends and learn together, I like when we do activities and have fun together. My best thing about being in the academy is knowing you have the best supervisors who is willing to help with anything, and the fact you develop new skills you could use in your workplace. My work placement is in Palmerston Regional Hospital, I work as a IAHA assists helping my supervisors with the patients and learning new things.

What motivates me to find a career in health is in my remote community Elliott there are not enough Doctors or nurses to help there. I think we need more health workers in remote communities.

My dream is to get a car and find a health-related job in Darwin or work back home. My advice I would give you those who are interested in health, choose IAHA because IAHA helps builds your confidences up, help you experiences what its like to work at any healthcare, support you in and outside of IAHA, provide food, and also you get paid for your time in IAHA.



Charlie Newman

My name is Charlie Newman. I am 17 years old and in year 12 at Taminmin College.

I am a Luritja and Arrente man from the Alice Springs region. I love playing AFL and rugby and going hunting and fishing.



I joined the academy because I wanted to learn more about health and all the careers in it. My experience with IAHA has been really fun and very educational. My favourite thing about the academy is that you get to spend time with your friends, and they make learning fun and interesting.

I had my placement with TeamHealth, and I was part of their remote team. We went out to local communities and put on fun little workshops with people who struggle with mental health and other issues in life. I am motivated to pursue a career in health so I can give back to community and help people.

My dream for the future is to become a nurse and work in remote communities for part of my career. The advice I would give someone who is joining the academy is to work really hard and actually try to get a lot out of the work you do because, in the long run, it is all worth it.





Ciara Ransome

My name is Ciara Ransome, I am 16 in year 11 at O'Loughlin Catholic College. My mob are the YIMAN/IMAN AND WARRABAL (QLD). A fun fact about me is that I really like art especially painting. I first joined IAHA to help me get a head start in becoming a nurse/ midwife and to help me with understanding the concepts, and good leadership skills to help me get out of my comfort zone.



It's been an awesome experience, and I would tell other young people to join, as it good for building life skills and friendships that you would of never be able to have if you didn't join. My favourite part of the Academy is connecting with new people, gaining important life skills and having an overall awesome experience with the team. My work placement was at RDH allied health departments, where I got the work with the Allied Health Assistance and all the allied health department which include OT physio, dietetics, speech pathology, podiatrist, and P&O.

My motivation to work in the health department came from my grandmother who was a nurse. As well as always wanting to help people. One of my main goals for the future is to complete my university degrees in becoming a paediatric nurse and mid-wife. Some advice would be to always commit to what you want to do while following your passions.





Darius Pastrikos


My name is Darius Pastrikos, I am 17. My family on my dad's side is from Santa Teresa, Alice Springs and my mob are the Arrernte people. My family on my mum's side are from the Torres Strait Islands and Larrakia from Darwin, Northern Territory.



Interesting fact about me is that I went under open heart surgery called TGA (Transposition of the great arteries). I was born with a heart defect with the two arteries that carry blood out of the heart that aren't connected as they should be, so they get reversed (transposed).

I decided to join the IAHA academy because I wanted to try more health-related jobs as a career and pathway for me. I've also been wanting to work with the health industry for a little over 2 years now such as my grandfather being such an inspiration for me when he was working with men for mental health.

Overall, it has been such a great and cool experience with IAHA now with the mentors and other students in a nice environment. Being taught and learning new things with a whole new group other than school has been good, can't wait to go further with IAHA in future.





Devina Parry

My name is Devina Parry, I am 17 years old and in year 11 at Casuarina Senior College. My family connections from my mother's side come from the Tiwi Islands and from my Dad's side come from Daly River. Some fun facts about me are that I quite like playing musical instruments; I can play the flute, a little bit of piano and guitar. I enjoy drawing and listening to music, and spending quality time with family.



I decided to join Allied Health; I think it was when I was in year 9 that Allied Health came over to Sanderson Middle School and held a middle school expo there. I remember finding this program interesting, and right there, at the end of the session, I wanted to join. Then high school came. I ultimately had forgotten about Allied Health, and then the Stars Mentors at school introduced this program to me, and I was like, "Oh my gosh, yes, yes", and so they helped me to write up my letter of interest. The Stars mentors prepared me for my interview, which I was very nervous for.

Since joining the Academy, it has been the best experience ever I have really enjoyed the amount of support provided here by IAHA staff, and I have enjoyed learning new things such as programs that are created to support young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with financial issues, studies, accommodations, further carer pathways and many more. What I like about being in the academy is the fact that we are being taught the vast variety of different opportunities in the health industry. For my work placement, I have been blessed to be placed in Carpentaria, where I work with patients who are diagnosed with dementia. I have loved this part of joining the academy very much, it's just that feeling of connecting with people who have gone through life and have experienced it to the fullest. I love hearing stories from their previous years and seeing pictures of them before they were diagnosed.





Harley Rasmussen

My name is Harley Rasmussen, and I am 18 and in year 12 at Marrara Christian College.

My family relations are from the Iningai tribe, from over in Barcaldine which is around Central Western Queensland. I have a brother who is ten years older. I'm one of the youngest kids in my family. I joined the academy because it gave me an opportunity to get out of school and learn new skills. I wasn't doing that great at school, so I decided to look into the different vet courses that were around. I found out about IAHA while at a school expo and knew that it was the vet courses I wanted to engage with and even possibly pursue my career.



My experience with IAHA has been amazing and better than I thought it would be. I was a bit nervous in the first few weeks of joining, but I slowly made friends in class that I would eventually call my sisters. The staff has been so nice and supportive of everyone; they really make the classroom a safe space.

The best thing about being in the academy is the people I've met, the staff and being given the opportunity to learn about health from a cultural perspective. As I get older, the career of becoming an OB-GYN and being able to travel around the world.

Something that motivates me to pursue a career in health is being able to help, and the potential to save people's lives. What advice would you give someone who wants to join the academy in the future? I would tell people to go for it and apply. The academy is one of the most diverse places and is a safe place to be yourself.

Everyone at the academy is welcoming, and the staff are incredibly kind. There are a few benefits as well; you get a Certificate III in allied health, a first aid certificate, an ochre card and more.



Jacintha Jensen

My name is Jacintha Jensen. I am currently 16 years old and in year 11 at O'Loughlin Catholic College.

I was born and raised in Darwin, but my mob are the Ngarluma people in Western Australia. Something I love to do is play netball. I have been playing netball since I was nine years old, and my interest in the sport hasn't changed. I have also gotten the chance to go to other states to represent the NT which I am very grateful for and wish to continue representing where I am from.



I wasn't really looking for a course to join at the time, but after hearing a bit about IAHA, I realised it would be a great opportunity for me to meet new people and learn about new things to help me with pursuing a future job in the health industry, along with helping my community and people. My current experience with IAHA has been amazing and a huge eye-opener. The team always makes me feel welcome, always makes sure, and manages to keep a smile on my face. I am so grateful for the connections I have built with the IAHA staff and with other students. In class, everyone just bonds together, and we always make so many fun memories together. But even with fun times, the IAHA staff still manage to teach us everything we need to learn and understand.

What I like best in IAHA is that there are plenty of fun activities to do that relate to the health units we are learning, which is a good way to allow everyone to be engaged on the topic we are learning.

What motivates me to pursue a career in health is knowing that one day, I will be able to help people and take care of them. It keeps me going.



Jacob Dempsey

My name is Jacob Demsey, I am 17 years old in year 12 at O'Loughlin College. My mob are the Wadyigini tribe which is located 200km east from Darwin, Yawuru tribe which is located in Broome and Larakia tribe which is located in Darwin. I am also a relative of the Powell family. An interesting fact about me is that I play 2 sports, basketball and football (AFL).



I joined the academy because I am interested in the health department and wanted to explore that option. I first wanted to pursue a career with physiotherapy and as I got into my work placements, I have furthered my passion and interest in this field of work.

My current experience with IAHA has been enjoyable for me because I am getting to know new people and create new friendships. I am also learning so much and creating good opportunities for myself.

The thing I like best about the academy is that we do heaps of work but still have fun, its just such a good environment to be in. Especially the ice breakers helping break down walls and form connections.

My goals for the future are to find what I want to do as a professional and if its health what in the health industry. Specifically mental health as I would like to work with younger children and help them become their best version.

The thing that motivates me the most is probably money from this experience and the growth in my character. The advice I would give someone wanting to join the academy is do it, you learn so much, and have so much fun. The health department is so interesting and there is so much to learn about.





Jade Jackson

My name is Jade Jackson. I am 16 years old and in year 11. I attend school at Taminmin College. I was born and raised in Darwin, NT. My mum is from Timber Creek, and my dad is from Elliott.

I really enjoy listening to music and playing my keyboard. I am a singer-songwriter, and I have a passion for fitness. I am a long-distance runner!



I joined the IAHA academy because I have an interest in the health sector. I hoped to gain a lot of knowledge about the body, nutrition, exercise, and how the body reacts and allows us to do our everyday activities.

My experience with IAHA has been incredible! I have learned and gained a lot of knowledge about the health and body unit. After I graduate from IAHA, I would like to become a nutritionist and do further study.

I have gained a lot of knowledge about the different units and the different diverse cultures, such as Including people in the workplace, being accepting and not discriminating.

I would like to be a nutritionist because I love being active and physical, I enjoy eating salads and vegetables, and I would like to learn more about good nutrition.





Jaia'Maree Ouwendijk-Reid

My name is Jaia'Maree Ouwendijk-Reid I am 16 years old in year 12 at O'Loughlin Catholic College. My mob are Larrakia and Arrernte. An interesting fact about me is that I have learnt to speak Dutch.



I've decided to join this academy because I want to have the opportunity to learn more around the health area and allow myself to reach my future goal of getting to know what health facility suits me and what I see myself doing once I finish school. Ultimately it would be midwifery.

My current experiences with IAHA I have enjoyed gaining more of an understanding about the different health areas and allowed to get to know work placement employees and the health facility they do during my time at IAHA. I have also been able to experience flexibility with my assessments at IAHA and school, as well with being more inspired with the work placements. What I like best about being in the academy is that there are fun activities that relate to the health unit areas that we learn, which are fun and interesting to do and talk about. There are always different delicious foods that the academy team provide for class.

My time during my work placement has been very enjoyable since I have been working in different areas of health such as Podiatry, Physio, Dietitian and Diabetes education at Danila Dilba. I have gained a lot of experiences and understanding on what each placement does and focuses around, as well with getting to know all the employees. What motivates me to pursue a career in health is getting the opportunity to learn and be able to help people in the health area.

Advice that I would give to someone that wants to join the academy in the future is to be committed with the opportunity and to never give up on what you want to achieve in the future as this choice will help you on the way.

Jayde – Maree Rosas

My name is Jayde-Maree Rosas, and I am a proud young 17-year-old Kuku Yalanji and Wiradjuri woman. I currently attend O'Loughlin Catholic College, and I am in grade 12. I am a Rosas from my mother's side, and they come from North Queensland. My tribes from them are Kuku Yalanji, Yidiniji, and Gudjula. My other last name from my father is Wickey, his family comes from the south coast of New South Wales. My tribes from him are Wiradjuri and Yuin.



An interesting fact about myself is that I can speak Indonesian, Italian, and English.

My reasoning for joining the IAHA academy is so that I can pass on my knowledge to my peers around me and help my people. From a very young age, I was always interested in the human body and how it functions. I also looked up to a few of my family members as they, too, work in the health sector, and I became inspired and motivated to do what they do and help save people's lives. My current experience with IAHA has been truly amazing, and I'm so grateful to be a part of the academy. The academy welcomes all Indigenous students in, and they show us a huge amount of support as well. When asked for help, they give, and they take into consideration our thoughts and opinions. They also, most importantly, make sure that all of the students thrive inside and outside of the academy.

Over my time in the academy, I have been lucky enough to attend two different work placement locations. My first placement was at 'Healthy Living NT', and I really enjoyed working there. I was exposed to the world of diabetes and learned so many new things about the chronic illness and how to manage it. I also gained some administrative skills as well as my supervisor allowed me to experience different positions at the workplace. My second placement that I am currently at is 'Life Without Barriers', and I am enjoying my time there as well, I have learned to work with clients who have disabilities like cerebral palsy, are non-verbal, or are completely confined to a wheelchair. This experience has made me learn how to non-verbally communicate, different ways of therapy, and how to essentially work as a caregiver. Although I don't want to be a caregiver when I graduate, I think that the experience is highly beneficial, and it helps prepare you for what to expect and just gives you a bit of practice in that area.

The things that motivate me to further pursue my career in health is that by helping one person at a time, we are slowly but surely helping our mob live a little while longer and teaching them how to be healthy so they can pass that knowledge on to others. It is a known fact that Aboriginal people have a shorter life expectancy than non-Aboriginal people, so it is important to help our mob out the best way we can and to make sure that our elders can live a comfortable life.

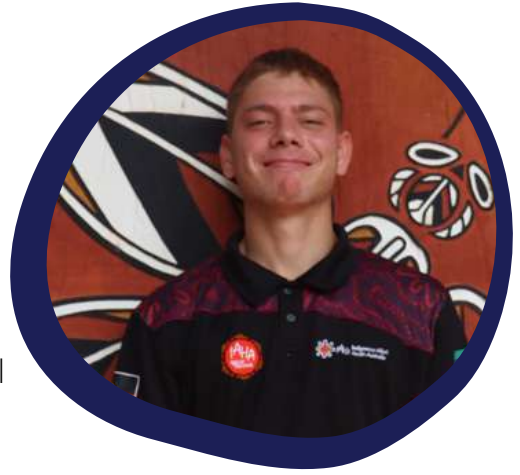
My dreams for the future will always land in the health field, but at the moment, I am looking into becoming an oral health therapist assistant or a sonographer. These two are different, but I am interested in pursuing either of them. If I don't become either of those, it will still definitely be somewhere in the health sector, just something that doesn't involve heaps of blood.

My final advice to the future students who join this academy is to be strong, don't give up, always push yourself to do the best that you possibly can, and always take a break and time for yourself to gather your thoughts. Don't burn yourself out.



Jalyn Priestly

My name is Jalyn Priestly; I am 16 years old and in year 11 at Casuarina Senior College. My mob are from a small town called Cherbourg in the South Burnett Region of Queensland. We are Australia the Wakka Wakka people, also known as the Wakka Wakka-Yiman or Wakka Wakka Jucan are an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



An interesting fact about me is that I play AFL and I am in the Eddie Betts Academy. I also enjoy playing golf in my free time.

I joined the academy to learn more about health and different jobs related to health, and it helped me get more credits for school. My friends told me it was fun. So far, I've enjoyed being in the IAHA Academy because they are very kind and supportive when it comes to doing the work.

It has given me a pathway to get a job in the health industry, and it helps me not be in school for the whole week. I have also been able to make new friends, have a good time with everyone and learn heaps of new things about health.

My dream is to get drafted and play AFL at the highest level.





Jonah Austin

My name is Jonah Austin. I am 16 years old, and I am a year 11 student at Casuarina Senior College. My mob are the Murumburr clan from the Yellow Waters region in Kakadu.



A fun fact about me is that I like playing sports. I play three different sports: football, soccer, and basketball.

I decided to join the academy because it is a good experience, and it can set me up with a successful career in the future by giving me opportunities for multiple different occupations.

My experience with the IAHA academy has been great so far; I have met lots of new people and learned lots of new things, and I am looking forward to more experiences. The thing I liked best about the IAHA academy is that learning new things is fun and easy.

My motivation for a career in health is that the pathway is there, IAHA is a great opportunity, and I don't want to let it go to waste.

One of my dreams in the future is to play in the AFL but my goals are to just be successful, have a good job that I enjoy and be able to live a stable life financially. Some advice I would give to someone who wants to join the academy in the future is to not be shame to meet new people and step out of your comfort zone.





Kaylani Cole



My name is Kaylani Cole. I am 17 years old, year 12 at O'Loughlin College. I am from Nyigina in Western Australia, Warumungu and Luritja in the Northern Territory.

A fun fact about me is that I was born in Melbourne, Victoria, and another interesting fact about me is that I have represented Australia in the u15's FIBA skills challenge for Basketball at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra and onto finals in Darwin.

I decided to join the academy because it will be an easier way for me to decide on a career path to focus on and provide me with the opportunity to get into that pathway. My current experience with IAHA has been good. The workload is well set, and I have been provided with the support that I need within the academy.

What I like best about being in the Academy is that it can give me an opportunity that being in school full-time wouldn't. Being in the academy is a fun way to learn about a career in health and give me the best chance to become something in the health industry.

My dreams/goals for the future is to now hopefully be able to do something in relation to health in the future and to be able to help people who need help with the knowledge and understanding I have gained from being in the academy so far.

My first work placement at the end of last year was at Mimik-Ga Centre, where I cared for and supported young children and their families. My last work placement this year was at Movement for Life Physiotherapy; I helped run warm water exercise sessions in the hydro pool and sat in and observed appointments with patients and physios. I enjoyed the atmosphere everyone was welcoming and helped me build my confidence in the workplace.

The thing that motivates me to pursue a career in health is that I now have an opportunity to do that, whereas if I wasn't doing the academy, I most likely wouldn't have any motivation to pursue a career in health.

Advice I would give someone that is wanting to join the academy in the future is to do it because it has provided me with opportunities that I could never get anywhere else, and it is a fun and exciting thing to look forward to every week as well as building and making new friends within the academy.



Kiaasha Hall

Hi, my name is Kiaasha Stuart Hall. I am 16 years old, and I am in year 11. I am a proud young Western Arrente woman who comes from Hermannsburg, which is also known as (Ntaria) where my mother comes from. I was born in Alice Springs and raised in Ntaria. I am also from the top end near Katherine; there's a small community called Minyerri, where my father is from; they speak Alawa and Kriole.



Growing up, I attended Hermannsburg School. I then transferred to St. John's Catholic College in 2020, when I was in year 7, which was one of the most difficult problems for me because I was away from home. I had to learn to be independent, but as the years passed, I gained confidence and bravery in myself.

My decision to major in allied health stems from my desire to set a good example for the young women in my community. I would like to work as an Aboriginal health professional to help new moms be the best parents they can be for their kids. As a member of the IAHA allied health team, I have gained a wealth of new knowledge. I want to pass on my knowledge and abilities to the upcoming generation when I return to Hermannsburg.





Keira Vincent

My name is Keira Vincent. I'm 16 years old, and I go to school at St John's catholic college as a year 11 student. My mob is the Yanyuwa people off the coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria in a small town called Borroloola. My interest is I like to draw sketches of anything that comes to my head. A fact about me is I have ADHD, but I don't look like I do.



I joined the academy because I wanted to have a head start on my life so I could have the biggest opportunity when I graduate. Also, my dream job was to become a nurse or doctor at a clinic or a hospital to save and help people's families around the Northern Territory. My experience so far in the academy this year has been fun, and I like coming here and doing work and starting to learn stuff I didn't know, which is interesting, and meeting other students from different schools in Darwin.





Lalisha Bush-Gordon

Hi, my name is Lalisha Bush Gordon I'm 17 and in year 12. My mob are the Bagala people from Beswick aka Wugularr Community. I love hunting, fishing and camping with family it's the best experience I'll ever have. Interesting and fun fact about me is that my grandfather won Australian of the year and my sister is in the AFLW and more fun fact about me I can be loud around my school friends and be quiet around new people and that I play footy and netball for when I'm out of school and got something to do.



I decided to join the academy because I really wanted to learn more about health and what other pathways health has. My current experience with IAHA has been fun learning about health and learning about more things about health and what does go on in the health department.

What I like best about the academy is that we get to learn about new things and all the activities that we do here at IAHA. There are many health professionals in the health carers. My dreams and goals for the future is to become a footy star just like my sister and become someone for my family and make them proud and don't really know what the future holds for me.

My motivation is to pursue a career in health because my grandmother sister is a health care worker, and she wants me to try and become a health care worker but I have my own plans for my future. My advice for someone who wants to join is find something you like and set your mind to it and never look back just keeping going Forward. That my advice for someone who wants a pathway in health and really want to learn so much more about health.



La Shani Mcdonald

My name is La Shani McDonald, and I am 16 years old. I am in year 11 at Haileybury Rendall School. My mob are the Wardaman and Myali people of Katherine.



I decided to join the academy because I want to work in the health industry. After I graduate, I want to pursue a career as a nurse or a health worker.

My experience with IAHA has been good. I enjoy coming on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. I got to meet new people, and the staff was very nice and helpful. The best part about the academy is how much support I get and that it is a safe working environment.

I haven't yet started in a workplace, but I really enjoy my days in the Academy, expanding my skills in the workspace, and getting job-ready.

My biggest motivation has been my family and their experience in health. I have always wanted to work in this field when I grew up, and watching my Aunty work as a health worker inspired me to be just like her.

My dream job is to be a midwife or an Indigenous Health worker back in community. I recommend joining this program because if you're wanting to work in the health industry, this is the perfect opportunity.





Marley Austin

I am Marley Austin, an 18-year-old student currently attending Casuarina Senior College in year 12. My mob is the Murumburr people of Yellow Waters in Kakadu.



I decided to join the IAHA academy after I was encouraged by my Indigenous support teacher, as it would be a good experience and would help me in the future. My experience with IAHA has been amazing. The support, work, environment and experience have been great, and I'm glad that I decided to join the academy.

Being in the academy has helped me realise that I enjoy being in the health sector, and they not only helped me with school but with any other problems I have had. The staff are very supportive and always check up on me and make sure everything is good.

One of the things I like most about being in the academy is the opportunities that I've been presented with and being able to go out to community events and represent the academy. For work placement, I have been placed at the Royal Darwin Hospital, which has many different health areas and types of therapists, and I am able to see what work would be like in a health setting as an allied health assistant or a physiotherapist. I found that I enjoyed helping others at the hospital with physiotherapy.

What motivates me in a career in health is my own health and being able to learn more about it so that I know what to do when myself or family members are hurt or sick as well as helping others. My dreams for the future are to continue health studies and get a career that I enjoy doing, which will enable me to have a happy, stable life as an adult.

The advice I would give to anyone looking to join the academy is that they should, even if they haven't considered having a career in health or studying health. It is a good experience, and maybe it might help you realise that you are interested in health.



Melody Seden


My name is Melody Seden. I am 16 years old and attend Casuarina Senior College as a year 11 student. I was born and raised in Darwin. My tribe from my dad's side is Southern Kaantju/Wuthathi from Queensland, and my tribe from my mum's side is Larrakia/Wulna from Darwin. I enjoy hanging out with my friends and family in my free time.



I joined IAHA because the Stars Mentor from Casuarina Senior College had informed me about it, and I knew I had to apply immediately because it was a great opportunity for me as I struggled a lot with mainstream schooling.

IAHA has been an amazing experience, and I have learned more about the health industry and our culture. It is such an eye-opening experience; it has opened more pathways for myself and getting.

In the future, I'm not quite sure what I would like to do, but being in the academy has opened my pathways and opportunities and is an eye-opening experience of what I would like to do after I graduate.





Mullaya Welsh

My name is Mullaya Welsh; I am a 16-year-old student at Darwin High School in Grade 11. I was born in Sydney Redfern, NSW, and I am Aboriginal and Māori. Both Kamilaroi and Muruwari are my mobs which are in NSW, southwest of QLD. Some interesting facts about me that people may not know are that I have travelled to 6 different countries, I am the youngest of three girls, and I own a pet crocodile named Bruz.



I joined IAHA in hopes of finding a passion in the health industry whilst gaining a cert III that could assist me in completing school and getting into university. IAHA has been a great experience as it displays the enormous range of diverse career opportunities that I was unaware of prior to joining the academy.

The best part of attending IAHA is the endless amount of support we receive; the staff will always go out of their way to help us with anything we need, whether it's getting a job or studying school-related subjects.

I also love that the program includes completing certificates like first aid and applying for things like the working with children's card for us to be prepared for the workplace. Currently, I am doing work placement with Outreach Physiotherapy. They promote health for people of all ages, aiding patients in managing pain and preventing disease, and offer movement and exercise support to those impacted by injury, illness, or disabilities.

So far, the most enjoyable part about it has been the home visits to see how people have adjusted to living with an impairment. It's also shocking to see how far these individuals have come since starting physiotherapy and what it can do for a person's health.



Myah Kelly

My name is Myah Kelly, I am 17 years and in year 12 at Casuarina Senior College. I am a young Larrakia, Iwaidja and Torres Strait woman. I was born and bred in Darwin with my family from both my mum and dads' side. I play hockey.



I first joined IAHA to help me with school, I then became to understand what the academy is and what they deliver. My first career option was aged care but as I went out and experienced different things and learnt about different careers in the health sector my eyes opened and I became more interested. What I like best about the academy is having the opportunity to go out into different workplaces and understand what work life is about. Also coming into the academy and having friendly and encouraging supervisors who motivate you to do your best.

My goal for the future is to have structure and stability with life and work, I also want to save to travel and enjoy life.

During my time at academy I got to experience two work placements. Eunoia Lane and Life without Barriers. Throughout both, I got to experience what its like to deal with patients in need which had given me a big view on requirements for the job. I enjoyed this most because it taught me patience. Pursuing a career in health would be fulfilling for me because of the experience I've seen within family and just a day to day life motivates me to help out in communities.

I highly recommend joining the IAHA academy to all young Indigenous students, it's been the best experience and you get a lot of opportunities. With the support and encouragement of the supervisors who not only focus on the work but prioritise your emotional wellbeing, it has made my journey a lot easier and I've been able to achieve my goals.



Rahiri Bedggood

Hi there, I'm Rahiri Bedggood. I started at Haileybury Rendell School in year 7 and am currently a boarding student in year 12. I'm 17 years old, and my father is from New Zealand, my mother is from Borroloola, and I'm a mixed breed. I enjoy creating art (drawing and painting), playing the drums, playing my favourite sport, rugby, travelling throughout Australia, learning about both my cultures, and hanging out with friends and family.



I applied to IAHA Academy because I was told that this workplace would be the ideal fit for me because I treated everyone with respect and they told me that I'm a good leader. In addition, I had a lot of friends who worked in this field, and we would often chat about the wonderful times and how they wanted to attend the academy. I was incredibly happy to get accepted and hope for the new generation to be proud and happy that they came this far.

IAHA has helped me discover my career path, improve my ability to learn quickly and stay on track and show me the real me by allowing me to come out of my shell and interact with others. They have also taught me how to be a leader for other students, encouraging them to stay on course and help those in need. At the Royal Darwin Hospital, where I work in the assistance department, I had numerous chances to assist the public.





Rhikali Nibbs

My name is Rhikali Sailor-Nibbs and I am in year 12 at CSC. My people descend from the tribe Yidinjidji, Thursday and Dudley Islands and Far North Queensland. My family was also adopted by the Arrente Tribe of Central Australia.



An interesting fact about me is that I have mixed anisometropia. Anisometropia is when you have one eye nearsighted and the other is farsighted.

My reason for wanting to join the Allied Health profession is because I want to be able to give back to my community and Family.

My goal in the future is to further my career and understanding of the healthcare industry and it helps people of all backgrounds.

My advice to everyone that is interested in healthcare and Allied Health is to do it, no matter what happens or what someone says about it. A quote to always keep in mind when studying is the quote by Winston Churchill "success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts".





Rianna Ryan

My name is Rianna Ryan. I'm 16 years old. I'm in year 11, and I go to Haileybury. My mob are the Myali people from Katherine. I play footy for the Darwin Buffaloes and have represented the NT Thunder team interstate. When I'm back home in community, I enjoy spending time with my family; we go fishing and camping and swimming at the hot springs.



I decided to join the academy because I look back and there are not many communities that have local Indigenous health workers. I want to be a professional AFL player and a health worker when I graduate from school so that I can help people in my community. The things that I enjoy about IAHA are that they always have the best teacher who's always there to help and support us and make sure we get our work done.

In my workplace, I enjoy the most learning about different things in the health industry. My advice to anyone wanting to join the academy is to just try it and give it a go.

Ruby Holmes

My name is Ruby, I am 17 years old and in year 12 at Taminmin college. I was born and raised in the NT. My mob is from my mum's side of the family the Wiradjuri people from central NSW and that is where majority of my family still live. I like camping, travelling and spending time with my family and friends.



I joined the academy after being told about it at school and attending an overview/introduction to IAHA with STARS foundation. I have really enjoyed my time at the academy and am so grateful for the opportunities I have received. I love how supportive and positive the team is and how much they care about us. I've made great connections and friendships with people and had so many great experiences over the year.



Ruby Mummery

My name is Ruby Mummery; I am 16 years old and in year 11 at Casuarina Senior College. My father's family are the Marrithiel people from Daly River, who also come from Borroloola. On my mother's side, we are Kanakas from Vanuatu in the South Sea Islands. I decided to join the academy after the Stars Mentors at my school told me it would be a great opportunity to explore the work field, get a jump start on my future career and a major assistance to graduate school, which is one of my goals.



My experience at IAHA so far has been eye-opening. They have helped me realise what possibilities and careers I could have and encouraged me to believe in myself. Working alongside the staff and my peers has built my confidence and expanded my verbal communication skills. I enjoy coming into the academy knowing we are all accepted and cared for. The support in this environment is amazing. My favourite part about being in the academy is the kindness and respect we all show each other; I also enjoy going to my work placement and running sessions for different schools/ programs that visit us. And I love listening to guest speakers as they put everything into a real-life perspective.

My goal for the next few years is to graduate school and continue with my studies to build myself a strong career. What motivates me to work in the health industry is my family, as it will make them proud, and with the different skills I learn, I will be able to take care of them one day.

The advice I would give to someone looking to join IAHA is to go for it! Being a part of this academy has been one of the best experiences I have had in education, which is something so valuable. The different skills and lessons I have learnt will stick with me for a very long time and I have made so many great friends along the way in my journey so far.



Samale Councillor

My family relations are from Western Kimberly around Broome, Port Hedland, and Bidyadanga. An interesting fact about me is that when I was 7, I went to Bali and got bitten by two monkeys.



I decided to join the academy because I didn't know what I wanted to do after school, and it gave me the freedom to have choices in what I would go into as a career, as well as being able to give me my year 12 NTCET. In my current experience at the academy, I was able to network and connect with other companies and organisations, which later helped me. I was given the opportunity to meet new people who have later become some of my best mates; the academy is a very culturally safe and supportive environment.

My current work placement is working at Ludmilla Preschool with kids of different nationalities and kids who struggle. I enjoy placement so I can be a part of the student learning opportunities. Something that motivates me to pursue a career in allied health is seeing some members of the community struggle with change and parenthood; I want to be able to support them and the people around them, whether it's with small amounts of support or the most.

I aspire to pursue a career in social work or working as a nurse in the oncology units around Australia.

Some advice I'd give someone wanting to join the academy is just to try it, and if you think it's not for you, then you can still change your mind, it gives you options.





Saphirah Gilboy

My name is Saphirah Gilboy. I am 18 years old and attend Mackillop catholic. I am currently in year 12, and my mob are Woolawonga. I'm 18 and have been here, in Darwin, since I was 12. I came here from living in Vic for nine years. I was born in Darwin but moved away when I was young. I did all primary school down in a place called Traralgon, which is located 2 hours from Melbourne. My hobbies are fishing, camping, and 4x4, and I've ridden horses my whole life. I've done Western pleasure shows and rodeos and more.



I decided to join the academy because I wanted to go into health, and IAHA offered the best option for me and I applied and got in and would never look back because by the end of the year, I'll have a cert III in allied health and will be able to go into the workforce easier. My current experience is great. I've done work experience in places that I thought I wanted to go into, but I did the experience and found out it wasn't what I wanted, so they have helped me find a job I want to go into.

What I like best is that they treat us all as equals, help us find a pathway after, and make sure we know we are supported. The two workplaces I did were Oral Health NT, and I found out I didn't want to go down the dentistry path. I also did riding for the disabled and found out disability work wasn't for me either.

What motivates me is seeing how many people struggle day to day with mental health and just wanting to help them and make life easier for them and knowing that having more Indigenous in the health workforce will help. My goals are to work in mental health and help people who don't talk about their problems. My advice for anyone coming into the academy would be to take in as much info as possible and take all the opportunities as they will help with further and take advantage of the fact that students have been offered an amazing opportunity to benefit their life and future.



Sarah Wees


My name is Sarah Wees, I'm 17 years old I go to Marrara Cristian collage, and I am currently in year 12. My mob is the Muralag and yadhaigana tribe of cape York and the Torres straits, but I was raised in a community called Warruwi of people that speak Maung, it is located on south Goulburn Island in the West Arnhem land.



Something interesting about me is that I'm allergic to chili but my whole family loves it I guess that's one of the facts about me being the black sheep of the family even though I'm the last of my family and they spoil me rotten.

The reason of me joining the academy is because I have had friends and family that had joined this academy and shared some great feedback about this academy talking about how fun and educational it is and the friendships built by just joining the academy. Joining this academy has been the best decision I've ever made cause it not only helped educationally but it helped me build my confident by surrounding me with supportive people who are confident in what they do and learn so it really inspired me to push myself to seek out pathways and know what to expect when going into workplaces with health professionals.

My current experience with IAHA has been a blast I've really enjoyed getting to know other students stories and what they want to archive by attending this academy, it really shocks me realizing how much talent and predental everyone here has and how confident they are in their learning, especially the new academy students. When they first came most of them were not shame at all they literally beat us 2023 cohort. When we first came in, we were the most shamest people ever, now look at us, going like we knew each other forever but yeah that's my current experience.






Sasha Kelantumama

My name is Sasha Kelantumama, I am 16 years old from the Tiwi islands (Nguui). I am a year 11 student at St John's Catholic College I have been a boarder there since I was in grade 7 in 2020. The things I love doing when I have free times is sitting with my friends and families, going for walks down the beach and mostly doing cleaning up as I love having clean and tidy areas.



I found out about the academy from an old student from my school who also studied and graduated from IAHA also my teachers and peers who knew that I was interested in health. I wanted to join the Academy because, in the future, I would love to work in health areas, and I thought this course would help me with that. When I first started at IAHA, I was so nervous because there were so many different students from other schools who I did not know, but now it's the days where I enjoy the most because I am learning new things about health that I never knew. My dream is to become an Aboriginal health worker. Growing up, I've always thought about becoming a health worker so I could help my people, but if it doesn't work out for me, I would still want to work somewhere in the health industry, such as a receptionist.

So far, my experience with IAHA is going great. I've learnt so many new things, built more confidence and met new people. The things I love about IAHA are the group sessions where we come together and do activities, the support we get from the staff here and the lovely food we get. I've enjoyed my time being a part of this program, and I can't wait to continue my journey with IAHA and see what next year will bring. The advice I would give to someone who wants or will be joining the Academy is to just do what makes you happy and never give up on what you really want to achieve.





Shakeam Hector

Hi, my name is Shakeam Azhara Hector. I'm a 17-year-old year 12 student attending and boarding at Haileybury Rendall School.




My mob is Guringji people from Wave Hill/Kailarindji. I have a big family from my mother's side. My grandfather had 21 siblings, so I have a lot of family everywhere. There is not much interesting about me, but I do have two brothers who play footy. Their names are Jaren, who is 15, and Eric, who is 14. I also have a little sister named Nova, who is 1.

I joined the academy because some of my friends went to it and I didn't know what to do with my life, so I joined for fun, and I am glad I did. This was the best part of my life. Especially meeting my best friend Sarah here. They helped me with a lot of things in my life, just being there was better than school, great people, good community.

I like the food, receiving help with my confidence and the opportunity to work in Headspace, it was great. I just loved everything about this place. Ever since my grandmother showed me what she does for work, I wanted to be just like her. So when my friend had shown me the IAHA VET course, I wanted to do this. Not just because of my friends but because my family would just love it too.

My dream is to live an independent life with my friends and making my own living, not staying at community with family living off them. I want to have my own life. Just put yourself out there even if it is bad or shame, you'll regret it if you don't.





Tanayah McDonald

Hey, my name is Tanayah McDonald. I'm 18 years old and I am a boarder at Haileybury Rendall School. I live in Katherine in a small community called Kalano.

I seem shy at first, but I have a good sense of humour and enjoy being outdoors with friends. I joined the Academy because it looks interesting, and I want to learn more about health.



Studying with the Academy this year has been a good experience, I like learning different units about healthy lifestyle, hygiene, and other stuff. It can be hard, but if I get behind, I know I can get some help to finish the units.

Being organised for work experience is exciting. I am looking forward to being able to experience other Health workplaces and see different jobs. I am interested in a placement in Child and Maternal Health.

My dream and goal for the future is to become a Community Health Worker and work in my hometown, Katherine. I like the idea of working with Child and Maternal Health, sometimes those workers go out to pick up the mothers and children and help them. I can help people in community access the health system. To help people out to better understand what they are doing and the services they can get in community.

Something that keeps me going when things are hard is reminding myself 'Don't give up and just move forward'.





Tully Cronin

My name is Tully Cronin, a year 12 student at Darwin High School. My mobs are Marramaninjsji which is located in Western Daly River, NT and Kalkadoon which is near Mount Isa, QLD.



Some interesting facts about me is that I was born in Margaret River, WA but moved to Sydney, NSW when I was 3 where I then lived for 10 years before moving to Darwin, NT in late 2019. Another fact is that I have 5 siblings which I am the youngest of, 3 brothers and 2 sisters.

I joined IAHA after hearing about it from the Aboriginal Education Officer at my school who thought it was a good opportunity for me as I showed an interest in the health industry. IAHA has been a great experience as it has helped expand my interest and clarify my future path into further education in the health sector at university.

The best part of attending IAHA is the community and support they provide to us. They make us feel comfortable in the workplace and encourage us to reach our goals. They provide beneficial experiences like bringing in guest speakers from various health organisations to talk to us about what they do.

My work placement is with Early Start Australia. They provide assessment and early child intervention therapies from a range of Allied Health professionals such as: Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech Pathology, Psychology. During my time there, I have done school visits with the allied health assistant who provides various therapies to children. I enjoy seeing the children's progress each week and how they learn the techniques that they practice during their sessions.





MEET THE TEAM



Kylie Stothers
Deputy Chief
Executive Officer



Joanne Sariago
National Manager,
IAHA Group training



Gabe Oth
National Vet Reform
and Redesign Lead



Annmarie McLeod
NT Academy
Regional Lead



Jessica Peris
NT Program Officer



Nick Wilson
Business Lead



Lynette Fejo
NT Learning and
Wellbeing Officer



Jordyn Ah Mat
NT Learning and
Wellbeing Officer

Domonic Grant
NT Learning and
Wellbeing Officer





CREATE OPPORTUNITIES

Grow the local health and social services workforce!

IAHA Group Training is a leading Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Group Training Organisation (GTO) designed to create opportunities for growing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce across diverse industries. We're here to help you find the right Trainee or Apprentice to develop a successful career in the health and social services sectors.

We can provide stress-free solutions when you are looking to employ Trainees and Apprentices. We work with you to build a positive and strength-based partnership as we recognise the integral role you play in preparing the future workforce. By providing meaningful and industry-relevant learning opportunities, you will be contributing to the work-readiness and employability skills for them to jump-start their career.

We welcome your interest and would love to talk to you about how we can assist you.

Benefits as a Host Employer:

- Gain a Trainee or Apprentice with an industry-recognised certificate.
- Be supported by our dedicated staff who will screen, recruit and select the right Trainee or Apprentice for you.
- We will manage and coordinate administrative tasks such as Human Resource Management and Industrial Relations.
- We will provide ongoing 360 wrap-around support services, including cultural support, career coaching and mentoring.



To find out more information, contact us on
(02) 6285 1010 or email us at
grouptraining@iaha.com.au



Find out more

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BECOME WORK READY

Find a fulfilling career and make a difference!

IAHA Group Training is a leading Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Group Training Organisation (GTO) designed to create opportunities for growing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce across diverse industries. We're here to help you find and guide your career in the health and social services sectors.

Traineeships and Apprenticeships provide industry knowledge as well as relevant work experience in your chosen health career – you can gain your industry-recognised qualification while you earn an income.

Choose to complete your training full-time, part-time or even at school.

We are here to help you get your employment off to the best possible start. We welcome your interest and would like an opportunity to talk to you about finding a fulfilling career.

Benefits as a Trainee/Apprentice:

- Gain an industry-recognised qualification.
- Be more confident in building your employability and leadership skills.
- Earn while you learn.
- Be work-ready by obtaining industry-relevant skills and experience.
- Be mentored and supported with wrap-around support by our dedicated staff.
- Tailor your training to meet your individualised needs that focus on success.



To find out more information, contact us on
(02) 6285 1010 or email us at
grouptraining@iaha.com.au



Find out more

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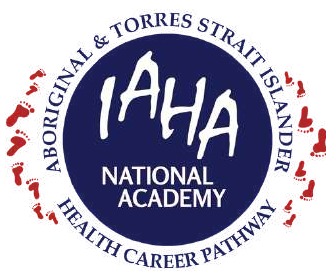
WINNER

trainingawards.nt.gov.au

BUSINESS CATEGORY – INDUSTRY COLLABORATION OF THE YEAR

IAHA NT Aboriginal Health Academy

A collaboration between Indigenous Allied Health Australia
IAHA Group Training and Fox Education and Consultancy



NT
Training
Awards 2024

FINALIST

trainingawards.nt.gov.au

IAHA NT ACADEMY FINALISTS

Dakota Krygger
2023 Graduate

**VET IN SCHOOLS
STUDENT OF THE YEAR**



Breannah Corpus
2023 Graduate

TRAINEE OF THE YEAR



IAHA NT Workforce Development is a Northern Territory, Aboriginal education, training, and employment organisation that aims to improve health and wellbeing outcomes with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, families, and communities across the Territory.

It provides established programs for individuals and organisations looking at career pathways, employment or building a local workforce in health and related sectors.

IAHA NT Workforce Development recognise and value the centrality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, knowledges, and perspectives. These are reflected in our programs and workforce development approaches with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing, being, and doing, such as the IAHA NT Aboriginal Health Academy.

IAHA NT Workforce Development employ nine staff, in addition to trainees employed through IAHA Group Training, as a growing employ of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Northern Territory, with 90 per cent of staff identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

IAHA Northern Territory Workforce Development provides support to individuals and organisations by:

- Connecting through personal, professional and cultural development opportunities
- Growing and implementing career pathways with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities
- Strengthening leadership capacity across the health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander health and wellbeing sectors
- Transforming partnerships with organisations, universities, governments and other related bodies to improve health curricula and address health workforce issues
- Delivering innovative education, training and mentoring programs
- Developing and maintaining strong networks and connections with communities to ensure IAHA NTWD priorities meet their needs and aspirations
- Working closely with the health sector and communities to improve access to health services and employment opportunities
- Leading with the allied health and health sectors to eliminate racism and improve the cultural safety and responsiveness of professional practice, services and organisation

www.iaha.com.au



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